



**MINUTES**  
**OXFORD CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING**  
**COURTHOUSE**  
**TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2026 AT 7:30 PM**

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**MEETING PROCEDURE:** Comments from the Public are welcome at two different times during the course of the meeting: (1) Comments on items not on the Agenda, and Consent Agenda items, will be heard under Public Comments – and (2) Comments on all Resolutions and Ordinances will be heard during Council consideration of said item. Please wait until you are recognized by the Mayor, state your name and address so that your comments may be properly recorded and limit your remarks to a period of five minutes or less.

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1. Roll Call.

A regular meeting of the Oxford City Council was called to order by Mayor Smith on Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at 7:30 p.m. Members in attendance were Alex French, William Snavelly, Amber Franklin, Roxanne Ornelas, Jason Bracken, and Jim Vinch.

Staff Members in Attendance

Mr. Douglas R. Elliott, Jr., City Manager; Ms. Jessica Greene, Assistant City Manager; Mr. Michael Dreisbach, Service Director; Mr. John Jones, Police Chief; Ms. Heidi Ridenour, Finance Director; Mr. Sam Perry, Community Development Director; Mr. Chad Smith, Parks and Recreation Director; Mr. Ben Mazer, Assistant Law Director; and Ms. Heather Barbour, Clerk of Council.

Due to technical difficulties, portions of the meeting recording and live stream may have been interrupted. We apologize for the inconvenience and appreciate the public's patience. Staff is actively working to resolve these issues to prevent future disruptions to meeting broadcasts.

2. Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Approval of Agenda.

Motion – To Approve the Agenda  
(Voice Vote) 1st Ms. French 2nd Ms. Franklin

AYE # 7  
NAY # 0  
ABS # 0

4. Public Participation.

A. Butler County Board of Developmental Disabilities Presentation

Ms. Patricia Dawson, Public Relations Coordinator for the Butler County Board of Developmental Disabilities. Ms. Dawson began her presentation by sharing slides with the number of Butler County residents who received support in 2025 (slides included in minutes). Ms. Dawson reviewed person-centered philosophy, early intervention, service and support administration, understanding waivers, and employment navigation. Ms. Dawson mentioned declaring a fiscal emergency in 2025 and a possible levy request for a 2-mill new continuing levy generating \$26,447,060.00 annually. Ms. Dawson addressed questions and comments from the Council. Mayor Smith thanked Ms. Dawson for her presentation.

B. Public Comments

**The purpose of the public comments section is for members of the public to speak to the City Council on any subject not scheduled on the Agenda, except consent agenda items. To speak, you may approach the podium and wait to be addressed by the Mayor. You will need to state your name and address for the public record. City Council values your comments, and Council rules limit public comments to five minutes for each person. Presentations are not to be in the form of public debate, personal attacks on Council, City staff, or other members of the public, and Council shall not act except to direct the City Manager to take action or schedule the matter for discussion at a later date.**

Public Comment — Mr. TJ Meloy and Service Dog Dusty, 115 Olde Farm Road — Mr. Meloy spoke to the Council in August of last year and watched the YouTube video of the last City Council meeting. Mr. Meloy shared that if anyone didn't know, the City of Oxford YouTube channel is fabulous, and you can watch all the recorded meetings a day after they're posted. To find out exactly what's going on and exactly how the Resolutions are explained, you don't have to rely on how a news article interprets it. Mr. Meloy mentioned being asked by some neighbors yesterday, why did you buy your house in a neighborhood where you knew there weren't any sidewalks? Mr. Meloy answered for the same reasons that everybody else in the neighborhood bought their houses. Mr. Meloy noted that the house had everything he and his wife wanted, which, if you're part of a couple, is hard to find. Mr. Meloy shared that there are many ways to appreciate character, and it's the quietness, the peacefulness, it's the people that make the character of the community, not necessarily the aesthetics of it. Mr. Meloy still stands by what he said about a street without a sidewalk is not a complete street. A sidewalk is the ultimate way to assure safe pedestrian travel because it creates a clear barrier between the pedestrian and the

road. Mr. Meloy mentioned hearing people say nothing happened here. That is a blessing that nothing happened here, and he's never gotten hit when he's had to go around an obstacle and go into the road or go around the garbage truck on garbage day. Which is very hard to do when the garbage truck driver isn't paying much attention to you while you're trying to get his attention for directions on how to cross around his vehicle. Mr. Meloy noted he doesn't walk much on garbage days unless he gets out before a certain time to avoid that scenario. Mr. Meloy stated that, in an effort to find other solutions, he reached out to his mobility instructor, Mr. Dan Schoenharl, who helps teach blind people. Mr. Meloy shared that an attachment can be found in the minutes with two emails he submitted with a proposal from Mr. Shoenharl. Mr. Meloy noted that the proposal was very similar to the proposal that Councilor Snavelly mentioned, with one addition, if the Council doesn't want to elect not to do a complete sidewalk on Olde Farm Road that they finish the sidewalk where it ends at 105 and finish it up to Country Club Drive. Adding a directionalized curb there, so there's a defined curb to cross Country Club Drive. Mr. Meloy's wife, Allison, said the biggest obstacle is not having a defined curb to cross at Country Club Drive. Most people who find me getting twisted around, it's probably because I've messed up at the crossing, because the designated landmark wasn't right. Mr. Meloy shared that finishing that part of the sidewalk would be minimally invasive, and is essential to any effort to make Olde Farm Road into a complete street.

Public Comment — Ms. Allison Meloy, 115 Olde Farm Road — Ms. Meloy thanked everyone for the ability to speak this evening. Ms. Meloy was reflecting on what she wanted to say this evening. She was thinking about regardless of whether or not we have a disability, we all assume a certain amount of risk anytime we elect to leave our homes. Ms. Meloy noted that we've decided as a society over the years and the decades to put measures in place to mitigate those risks. So we all have a reasonable chance of being able to come home to those we love at the end of the day. Ms. Meloy mentioned some examples of items that mitigate the risk, are things like traffic lights, seatbelt laws, and even sidewalks. Ms. Meloy wishes to work together to find the best solution, but at the end of the day, we all have a right to safety. Ms. Meloy stated that whatever solution the Council decides on, it's going to benefit everybody; she's heard that expressed in the work session as well. It's not just going to help people with disabilities, it's going to help kids, older people, it will help everybody who calls this community home. Ms. Meloy stated that this concept is known as universal design, designing spaces and systems that work for everybody. Ms. Meloy concluded by saying she wanted to speak to her neighbors and ask that they take this in the spirit of Christian love in which it is intended. Ms. Meloy shared that she found it completely unacceptable and deeply disappointing that she and TJ were not consulted or included in the proposal that you all drafted and sent to the Council. As people with disabilities, we are experts on what we need. Ms. Meloy noted that their voices and experiences matter, and their input is not optional; it is essential. Ms. Meloy shared her expectation going forward, whether it's pertaining to this matter or anything else pertaining to our neighborhood, is that we will work together in neighborly collaboration, and she looks forward to collaborating with you and getting to know my neighbors.

Public Comment — Mr. Alan Brantley, 111 Country Club Drive — Mr. Brantley shared that his residence is not one of the residences that would be directly affected by adding a sidewalk. Mr. Brantley wanted to say a word or two as a proxy for Mr. Marcus Jobe, who happens to be in Oklahoma and couldn't be here tonight to speak for himself because his 90-year-old-plus mother just went to the hospital. Mr. Brantley agreed to summarize some of the comments from an email sent to some of the Council members. Mr. Brantley doesn't want to speak against the idea that

either Marcus or himself or anyone wants to make life difficult for somebody who has some kind of disability. Mr. Brantley shared that Mr. Jobe spends 6 months out of every year in the Ukraine, helping the people who are being bombed, who have no food, who are freezing to death. Mr. Brantley stated that Mr. Jobe has a commitment to helping people who are not as well off as he is. Ms. Brantley spoke about his wife being a nurse at Drake Hospital, where she was in charge of 22 cases of brain-injured patients. Ms. Brantley stated that no comment that he makes tonight should be construed as saying either Marcus or anyone else doesn't care about disabled individuals. Mr. Brantley noted that the idea that a few people, nine residences, would bear the burden for a sidewalk or some of the improvements that would be required to help under the circumstances. Mr. Brantley mentioned that for some people the sidewalk would run \$4,500 to take the trees down would be another \$12,000 that's a burden shared by one individual, multiply that times some of the other individuals involved. That's a heck of a lot of money for a few people to help out one other individual. Mr. Brantley stated that Mr. Jobe is not opposed to visually signs for the that there's a visually impaired person in this neighborhood. Mr. Brantley brought up the idea of no parking on Olde Farm Road being more of a problem because it's a long stretch, it's every day of the year, probably, and it's going to create congestion not only for people who want to have company on Olde Farm Road, but probably Country Club Drive as well. Mr. Brantley has seen speed bumps and damage to cars as a result of speed bumps. Not necessarily speed, but if someone's in an older car and they have a weak component, they go over a sapped bump at the wrong angle, it can do damage. Mr. Brantley brought up the idea of a sidewalk with trees, in Mr. Jobe's opinion, it should be out, shouldn't even be considered, these other things if they can be worked around as solutions and if the financial burden the financial burden could be spread. If we're all concerned about disabilities and the problems they create for people in our communities or neighborhood, then we should all share in that expense, not just the people who live along that short stretch of Olde Farm Road. Mr. Brantley noted that Mr. Jobe suggested to people that the City provide some assistance for a disabled person to get to Contreras Road. How expensive would that be for such a short distance if it was two or three days a week? Mr. Brantley noted that Mr. Jobe also suggested that maybe the idea of some kind of tax burden for all of us if we're all in this together and if we really believe in it. Mr. Brantley stated that if we do this for one individual in a given case, how many other cases could come before us that we would have to say we need to do something for them too? Mr. Brantley asked why don't we just spread the burden in the beginning and not worry working on one case after another and having all these lengthy meetings. Mr. Brantley stated that those are some of the ideas Mr. Jobe wanted him to share and that Mr. Schoenharl suggested somehow or another we extend the curb and provide a little extra space for walking and that this was done at Write State University, but it was done in a parking lot. It wasn't done on a street where there's going to be snow plows, garbage trucks, mail trucks, and access over driveways every day. Mr. Brantley noted that any kind of extension that was considered of the curb that Mr. Schhoenharl would be wrecked within a very short period of time and we'd back here trying to work out something all over again. Mr. Brantley shared that he hopes we will keep our minds open to mainly two things, let's don't make nine people share the burden of all this, and let's not be so caught up in the idea of a sidewalk or trees that we can't think of other types of assistance. Mr. Brantley mentioned the presentation earlier tonight that says we have groups of people who can help with different kinds of support. Let's make use of those different kids of support and let's support those organizations that do that on and share the burden for all of us. Mr. Brantley fished by saying we do really care, Mr. Jobe does, as all of his work in the Ukraine testifies and I and my wife and all the cases she's helped deal with just brain injured patients, were on the side of solidarity with everybody else to do something about a problem we have here.

5. Consent Agenda.

All matters under the Consent Agenda are considered by the City Council to be routine and will be enacted by one motion. Any City Council member may, however, remove an item from consent by request. Items removed for separate discussion will be considered after the motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

Motion – To Approve the Consent Agenda  
(Voice Vote) 1st Ms. French 2nd Ms. Franklin  
AYE # 7  
NAY # 0  
ABS # 0

- A. Minutes of the February 17, 2026, City Council Work Session Meeting. (Heather Barbour, Clerk of Council)
  
- B. Minutes of the February 17, 2026, City Council Meeting. (Heather Barbour, Clerk of Council)
  
- C. A Resolution Authorizing The City Manager To Enter Into An Agreement With Canon Solutions America, Inc. For A 63-Month Lease Of A Canon IR ADX DX C3930i For Use By The Oxford Fire Division. (John Detherage, Fire Chief)

6. Resolutions.

- A. A Resolution Authorizing The Allocation Of \$16,000 For 2026 Sustainability Action Items, Including Technical Assistance And A Battery Recycling Program (Jessica Greene, Assistant City Manager)

Motion – To Adopt Resolution No. 7796.  
(Voice Vote) 1st Ms. French 2nd Mr. Snavelly

AYE # 7  
NAY # 0  
ABS # 0

Ms. Greene presented her staff report and addressed questions and comments from the Council.

Public Comment - None.

- B. A Resolution Adopting The Economic Activation Program, Attached Hereto As Exhibit A, To Promote Reinvestment, Code Compliance, And Economic Vitality Within The City Of Oxford, Ohio (Jessica Greene, Assistant City Manager)

Motion – To Adopt Resolution No. 7797.  
(Voice Vote) 1st Ms. French 2nd Mr. Snavelly  
AYE # 7  
NAY # 0  
ABS # 0

Ms. Greene presented her staff report and addressed questions and comments from the Council.

Public Comment - None.

- C. A Resolution Accepting The Bid And Authorizing The City Manager To Enter Into An Agreement With EV United, LLC For The Installation Of Six Direct Current Fast Charging Stations For Electric Vehicles At A Cost Of \$904,328.00 Plus A Contingency In The Amount Of \$1,161.00 For A Total Cost Not To Exceed \$905,489.00. (Michael Dreisbach, Service Director)

Motion – To Adopt Resolution No.7798.  
(Voice Vote) 1st Mr. Snavelly 2nd Ms. French  
AYE # 7  
NAY # 0  
ABS # 0

Mr. Dreisbach presented his staff report and addressed questions and comments from the Council.

Public Comment - None.

7. Ordinances.

**Ordinances are adopted using a two-step procedure. First reading introduces the Ordinance and provides an opportunity for public input on the subject as well as allowing Council to request more information as needed. Second reading is to provide Council with the opportunity to consider new information and to deliberate.**

A. First Reading

1. An Ordinance Dedicating Certain City-Owned Real Property Abutting U.S. Route 27 As Public Right-Of-Way. (Michael Dreisbach, Service Director)

Mr. Dreisbach presented his staff report and addressed questions and comments from the Council.

Public Comment - None.

2. An Ordinance To Regulate The Rates And Charges To Be Charged And Collected And The Services To Be Rendered By Glenwood Energy Of Oxford, Inc., Its Successors And Assigns, For Gas And Gas Service Furnished To All Of Its Customers Within The Corporate Limits Of The City Of Oxford During The Period Ending April 30, 2029, And Repealing And Superseding Ordinance No. 3689, Which, Together, Previously Regulated Such Rates, Charges, And Services.. (Douglas R. Elliott, Jr., City Manager)

Mr. Elliott presented his staff report and addressed questions and comments from the Council.

Public Comment - None.

3. An Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 3844 Supplemental Budget Ordinance Number 1 To Make Supplemental Appropriations For Fiscal Year 2026. (Heidi Ridenour, Finance Director)

Ms. Ridenour presented her staff report and addressed questions and comments from the Council.

Public Comment -None.

B. Second Reading

1. An Ordinance Accepting The Annexation Petition From Miami University For 157.217 Acres Of Land In The Township Of Oxford, Butler County Ohio, And Accepting Said Territory To Be Annexed. (Douglas R. Elliott, Jr., City Manager)

Motion – To Adopt Ordinance No. 3855.  
(Roll Call Vote) 1st Ms. French 2nd Mr. Snavely

AYE # 7

Mr. Bracken, Ms. Franklin, Ms. French, Ms. Ornelas, Mr. Snavely, Mr. Vinch, and Mayor Smith

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

Mr. Elliott reported no changes since the first reading and offered to answer any questions.

Public Comment - None.

2. An Ordinance Approving A Six Month Extension Of The Approved Clarence Place Final Subdivision Plat And A One Year Extension Of The Clarence Place Final Planned Development Located On 3.464 Acres At 601-607 West Chestnut Street, Oxford, Ohio (Sam Perry, Community Development Director)

Motion – To Adopt Ordinance No. 3856.  
(Roll Call Vote) 1st Mr. Snavely 2nd Ms. French

AYE # 7

Ms. Franklin, Ms. French, Ms. Ornelas, Mr. Snavely, Mr. Vinch, Mr. Bracken, and Mayor Smith

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

Mr. Perry reported no changes since the first reading and offered to answer any questions.

Public Comment - None.

3. An Ordinance Repealing Oxford Codified Ordinance Chapter 137 Entitled Housing Advisory Commission, And Adopting New Oxford Codified Ordinance Chapter 137 Entitled Housing Advisory Commission. (Jessica Greene, Assistant City Manager)

Motion – To Adopt Ordinance No. 3857.  
(Roll Call Vote) 1st Ms. French 2nd Ms. Franklin

AYE # 7

Ms. French, Ms. Ornelas, Mr. Snavely, Mr. Vinch, Mr. Bracken, Ms. Franklin, and Mayor Smith.

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

Ms. Greene reported no changes since the first reading and offered to answer any questions.

Public Comment — Ms. Ann Fuehrer, Dana Drive — Ms. Fuehrer chairs the HAC and hopes the Council supports this Ordinance. Ms. Fuehrer mentioned that reviewing the establishing ordinance for the commission, the need was catalyzed by a difference in perspective, a disagreement about exactly who were members of the commission or who should be members of the commission. Ms. Fuehrer noted that HAC went back to the criteria used to appoint members of the commission seemed to be a good idea. Ms. Fuehrer shared that members of HAC spent a good part of 2 meetings talking about the specifics, and really appreciated doing that. It served us well to take a look at the infrastructure for the commission and really helped to come to a resolution of the specific disagreement. Ms. Fuehrer stated that the commission did a great job clarifying the criteria that we thought were important in appointments to this particular commission, certainly expertise, the importance of residents not necessarily in the City for everyone but in the school district or greater Oxford area, representation of the City Council and Planning Commission on the commission and hopefully some diversity in the role that people played in the relation to housing. So having homeowners, renters, and people who struggle to find affordable housing in the city. Ms. Fuehrer noted that taking a look at the infrastructure, clarifying the infrastructure was very timely. Ms. Fuehrer mentioned she thinks it will really help us build some cohesion as a commission going forward, as we've already been talking about tonight with other actions, we're celebrating right now the two housing developments, affordable housing, and homeownership represented by the Habitat on Chestnut and the New Roots development on Hester. Ms. Fuehrer noted being freed up in some ways before we start talking 47 acres and perhaps a request for qualifications to help us think about the development of those 47 acres of city-owned land. We have some time to talk about other possibilities that certainly profoundly affect the extent to which the city can commit to development of affordable housing. Ms. Fuehrer mentioned she has heard for the last three or four years that she's been observing Council the importance of housing for all and that includes an emphasis on affordable housing. Ms. Fuehrer shared that Thursday's regular monthly HAC meeting is open to the public if anybody would like to come and be part of these conversations. The HAC will be taking a look at the history of the housing trust fund and the current status and thinking about where that can be developed in a sustainable way in the future. The other Agenda item for Thursday is a discussion of sheltering and the future of sheltering and developing a sustainable model for sheltering very broadly defined. Ms. Fuehrer mentioned that a report on the Oxford Winter House was being created after the shelter closed for the season. Ms. Fuehrer spoke about the celebration that took place last night for the Oxford Winter House and thanked those who were able to attend.

8. Announcements & Communications.

A. Remarks from City Council and City staff.

**The comments expressed by individual members of Council or City staff during this portion of a City Council meeting do not necessarily reflect the views of the City of Oxford, The Oxford City Council, or the City staff.**

B. Future Meetings.

(Note: Meetings are held at the Court House unless otherwise indicated.)

DATE	Meeting		
	1. Mar 4	Environmental Commission	Municipal Building 7:00 p.m.
	Mar 5	Housing Advisory Commission	College@Elm 5:00 p.m.
	Mar 9	Oxford Recreation Board	Municipal Building 12:00 p.m.
	Mar 9	Public Arts Commission of Oxford	Municipal Building 5:30 p.m.
	Mar 10	Planning Commission	Courthouse 7:00 p.m.
	Mar 11	Historic & Architectural Preservation Commission	Courthouse 6:00 p.m.
	Mar 12	Civil Rights Commission	Municipal Building 4:00 p.m.
	Mar 17	City Council	Courthouse 7:30 p.m.
	Mar 18	Board of Building Appeals	Courthouse 5:30 p.m.
	Mar 24	Board of Zoning Appeals	Courthouse 6:30 p.m.

9. Adjourn.

Motion – To Adjourn at 9:17 pm.  
(Voice Vote) 1st Ms. French 2nd Mr. Snively  
AYE # 7  
NAY # 0  
ABS # 0